

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 INT-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /088 W

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R 201515Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1637

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 1185

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SW

SUBJECT: WILDCAT STRIKE IN MINES

1. SUDDEN WILDCAT STRIKE BEGAN MARCH 19 IN IRON ORE MINES OF LKAB COMPANY IN KIRUNA AND DURING NIGHT SPREAD TO MALMBERGET. AT HEIGHT ABOUT 700 MINERS WENT OUT, BUT UNION LEADERS WORKED HARD TO GET MINERS BACK TO WORK, AND LATEST REPORTS INDICATE ONLY ABOUT 100 OUT CONFINED TO KIRUNA. ONE OF KEY UNION LEADERS IN EFFORT CALM THINGS DOWN WAS TURE RANTATALO, WHO LED MINERS OUT IN VERY SERIOUS WILDCAT STRIKE.

2. WORKERS ARE UNHAPPY OVER AGREEMENT SIGNED MARCH 17 WHICH PROVIDED WAGE/FRINGE PACKAGE OF ABOUT 15 PERCENT AND SHORTENING OF WORK HOURS TO 35 HOURS PER WEEK FOR CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF UNDERGROUND WORKERS. THE STRIKERS ARE DISSATISFIED WITH UNION'S FAILURE TO OBTAIN A FIFTH WEEK OF VACATION AND A THIRTEENTH MONTHLY WAGE, TO BE PAID IN CONNECTION WITH VACATION.

3. SINCE STRIKERS IN STRATEGIC POSITIONS, MINE OUTPUT
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SERIOUSLY CURTAILED. COMPANY ESTIMATES ONLY 13 OF

SCHEDULED 28 ORE TRAINS WILL LEAVE NARVIK MARCH 20.

4. COMMENT: THIS WILDCAT STRIKE FOLLOWS CLOSE ON
AIRPORT WILDCAT STRIKE (SEE STOCKHOLM 0935) AND IS
ANOTHR INDICATION THAT MANY WORKERS ARE NOT SATISFIED
WITH AGREEMENTS THEIR UNIONS ARE SIGNING THIS YEAR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR STRIKES, MINING INDUSTRY, LABOR OBJECTIVES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STOCKH01185
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740059-0096
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740328/aaaaazf.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WILDCAT STRIKE IN MINES
TAGS: ELAB, SW
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005